

CONGRATULATING THE SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL ECONOMICS TEAM ON WINNING THE NATIONAL FED CHALLENGE

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I wish to highlight the accomplishments of the Saint Joseph High School Economics Team. On May 18, 2010, this team outscored other excellent teams from across the country in the National Fed Challenge and went on to represent Indiana as one of only four teams nationwide that qualified for the final competition at the Federal Reserve Building in Washington, DC.

The Economics Team then faced tough competition from Boston, New York, and Richmond, Virginia. Following their 15 minute presentation about the economy they were asked questions by a panel of judges consisting of Federal Reserve staff members, professional economists, and educators. After the judges weighed in, the St. Joseph High School economics team of South Bend, Indiana, captured the national championship. These St. Joseph students demonstrated their unmatched knowledge of federal monetary policy and the economy, and for the first time in their school's history, after three previous trips to the national tournament, they triumphed. The team consisted of five students: Elizabeth Everett, Theodora Hannan, Donny MacDonell, Angela Watkins, and Joe Watkins. These outstanding students were coached by their teachers, Julie Chismar and Phil DePauw.

I offer my congratulations to the St. Joseph High School Economics Team and all those affiliated with their success in the National Fed Challenge. These students serve as a model of commitment and dedication to educational excellence, and I am certain that their winning tradition will continue.

HONORING MRS. IVALITA JACKSON

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, CBC, to offer our deepest condolences as we pay tribute to the extraordinary life of Mrs. Ivalita Jackson, beloved mother of our friend and CBC colleague, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE and her brother, Michael. With Mrs. Jackson's passing on May 18, 2010, at the age of 84, we are reminded of her life's journey, the joyful legacy she inspired, and her bold commitment to selflessly care for others.

Ivalita Jackson, affectionately known as "Ivy," was born on January 15, 1926, in St. Petersburg, Florida, to Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd and Vannie Bennett. Mr. Bennett worked as a Pullman porter and Mrs. Bennett was both a homemaker and businesswoman. When Ivalita was 16, she and her sister Valerie moved to Queens, New York, to seek greater opportunities and to help their family back in Florida.

The two set a course marked by self-reliance, strong work ethic and personal respon-

sibility that continues to inspire their loved ones to this day. It was in New York that Ivalita began a life of service by seeking training in vocational nursing. And, she soon met the love of her life, New York native and comic book artist, Ezra Clyde Jackson, to whom she was married for 47 years.

Known for her expertise in the care of infants and premature babies, Ivalita Jackson was one of the first African American nurses to work at the Salvation Army Booth Memorial Hospital (now the New York Hospital Queens) and was a pioneer for other African American women in her field. "Jackie," as her colleagues called her, was loved and respected by patients and coworkers alike.

Mrs. Jackson cared for others' children during the graveyard shift so that in the morning she could walk her own small children to school. Her role as a mother was one of the guiding principles in her life and she made every effort to be involved in her children's school activities.

She also took great joy in her active leadership roles at Linden Seventh-day Adventist Church, where she was a dedicated charter member and part of the gospel choir. In addition, Mrs. Jackson made sure that her children were involved in church activities and instilled with a sense of spiritual and public service.

A dedicated wife, sister, mother and grandmother, Mrs. Jackson was known by many as a true "renaissance woman." She was a talented flower arranger, a wise mentor, a compassionate spirit and a woman who commanded an enormous amount of respect. With wit and wisdom, she reminded others to show love in spite of hardship and to love themselves so that they might love others that much more.

Though preceded in death by her husband, Mrs. Jackson is survived by son, Mr. Michael Jackson, daughter, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, grandchildren, Jason Lee and Erika Lee, and a sister, Mrs. Vivian Smith.

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus join family and friends in mourning the loss and celebrating the life of Mrs. Ivalita "Ivy" Jackson. On behalf of those whose lives she touched in magnificent ways, we honor and salute her. Ivalita was truly a great woman and she will be deeply missed. The contributions she made to others throughout her life are countless and precious. Our thoughts and prayers are with Congresswoman JACKSON LEE, the entire family and Mrs. Jackson's extended group of loved ones and friends. May her soul rest in peace.

CONGRATULATING CHIHUAHUA
DESERT RESEARCH INSTITUTE

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute, which I am excited to announce is in the 23rd district of Texas, on its recent nomination to participate in the Museum Assessment Program, MAP. The program has served over 5,800 museums since 1981 and is administered through the American Association of Museums in a cooperative agreement with the Institute of Mu-

seum and Library Services, IMIS. The program will help the museum, beyond its current success, identify through peer review, how to improve programming and operations to address current and future challenges.

The Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute is located within the scenic Davis Mountain range near Fort Davis. Through research and education, including its proximity to Sul Ross State University, the non-profit institute promotes public appreciation and awareness for the natural diversity of the Chihuahuan Desert. Highlights include a 1400-sq.-ft. cactus and succulent greenhouse, a desert botanical garden, over 3 miles of hiking trails, and interpretive exhibits.

The institute offers opportunities for visitors of all ages to learn through the Life-Long Learning Program. This program features workshops, fieldtrips, and lectures on a variety of topics related to the natural history of the desert region. Other programs for school and youth groups help parents and teachers reinforce scientific concepts by offering exciting, interactive activities. Teachers can continue their professional education with interesting classes that emphasize outdoor learning and hands-on activities to use as demonstrations for their students.

Exhibits include "Our Dynamic Landscape: Geology, Culture, History," the "Chihuahuan Desert Mining Heritage Exhibit," a "Geological Timeline," and constant changing interactive "Atrium Exhibits."

Again I would like to extend my sincere congratulations on the recognition of the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute by the Museum Assessment Program for its outstanding efforts on educating the community about regional and ecological awareness. This continuous hard work has a positive impact on visitors and students alike who in turn will appreciate preservation of the earth's natural history, regional habitats, and more importantly, the importance of preservation for future generations.

FAITH AND FOREIGN POLICY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a piece by Tom Farr, former American diplomat and senior fellow at the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs which recently ran in The Washington Post.

Farr highlights several of the more alarming findings outlined in the recently released annual report of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.

Whether it is the persecution endured by Tibetan Buddhist monks or the violence perpetrated against the ancient Christian community in Iraq—religious freedom is under assault around the world.

Farr points out that the commission makes a host of policy recommendations which should prove invaluable to the U.S. State Department as it seeks to advocate for those whose voices have been silenced around the world.

However, Farr also rightly notes that "one could easily conclude that Obama Administration officials have no intention of giving priority